

CHURCH MATTERS.

Religious Notices.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. H. W. Ballantine, Pastor. Public worship on the Sabbath at 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school at 12 M. Sunday-school prayer-meeting, Sabbath, at 7 P. M. Weekly prayer meeting, Thursday, at 7:45 P. M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.—Rev. Ezra D. Simons, Pastor. Sunday services: Preaching at 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school, 12 M. The Lord's Supper on the first Sabbath of each month, close of morning service. Temperance meeting on Tuesday evenings. Prayer meeting on Thursday evenings. Young People's meeting, Sabbath evening at 6:30 o'clock.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Rev. D. R. Lowrie, Pastor. Sunday services: Preaching, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school at 2:30 P. M. Prayer meeting, Thursday evenings at 7:45. Class meetings, Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:45.

THE WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Fremont Street, corner Franklin—Rev. W. S. Duffield, Pastor. Sabbath services, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school, 12 M. Weekly prayer meeting at 8 o'clock each Thursday evening, in Chapel parlor.

CHRIST CHURCH (Episcopal)—Liberty Street—Rev. W. G. Farrington, D. D. Rector. Morning service, 10:30 o'clock. Second service, 4 P. M. Sunday-school at 2:45 P. M.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART.—Rev. J. M. Nardiello, Pastor. First mass, 8:30 A. M.; High mass, 10:30 A. M.; Vespers, 3 P. M. Sunday-school, 2:30 P. M.

BERKELEY UNION SABBATH SCHOOL.—Held in Berkeley School-house, Bloomfield Avenue, every Sunday at 3 o'clock P. M. John A. Skinner, Superintendent. All are welcome.

WATSESSING M. E. CHURCH.—Rev. J. Cowans, Pastor. Sunday services: Preaching, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school, 2:30 P. M. Prayer meeting, Thursday evening at 7:45. Class meeting on the first Friday evening in February.

ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Watseissing).—Rev. Daniel L. Edwards, Rector. Morning service, 10:30 o'clock; evening service, 7:30. Sunday-school, 3 P. M.

GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. John M. Enslin, Pastor. Hours of service, 10:30 A. M. Sunday-school, 2 P. M. Prayer meeting, Tuesday evening, 7:45.

REFORMED CHURCH (Brookdale).—Rev. Pastor. Sabbath services 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school, 9 A. M. E. G. Day, Superintendent. Prayer meeting, Wednesday evening.

HOLY CHAPEL.—Sunday-school every Sabbath at 3:30 P. M. John G. Broughton, Superintendent.

SILVER LAKE.—Sabbath-school held every Sunday, in the hall, at 3 P. M. Charles A. Hubbs, Superintendent. Gospel meeting every Sabbath evening at 7:30 o'clock. Prayer and Conversational meeting, Friday evening.

BLOOMFIELD S. S. TEACHERS' NORMAL CLASS.—Rev. W. H. Brodhead, Leader—Meets on Wednesday evening of each week, at 8 o'clock, in the Sunday-school rooms of the First-Presbyterian Church. Sunday-school teachers, workers, and friends are cordially invited.

CHRIST CHURCH.—The Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Starkey, will preach at the Episcopal Church next Sunday morning, at the half-past ten service. Strangers welcomed.

Meeting of the School Trustees.

Owing to the severe storm, a quorum was not present at the meeting of the School Trustees on Tuesday evening, and no business was transacted. Some plans for the new School were brought forward and discussed by them. Mr. W. H. Brodhead, teacher of French, designed a building, two stories in height, containing six or eight class rooms, as might be thought desirable. The outer material will consist of ordinary hard brick, with brown stone trimmings; entrances are provided at the sides, and the front is adorned with a small circular window and cupola. The interior is divided into four large rooms upon each floor, with broad halls and staircases, and wardrobes for each class. The size of the whole building is 44 feet by 67 feet, and will cost about \$9,000 or \$10,000.

Miss Maria M. Haydock, a graduate of the Troy Female Seminary, has been selected by the Committee on Teachers to fill the vacancy in the Grammar-school. She is already in charge of her class. The report of Mr. J. B. Duubar, for the last month, is as follows:

The entire enrollment for the month ending Friday, Dec. 21st, was 790, with an average daily attendance of 673, or 84 per cent. The total of half-day absences was 2,700, or 1,060, or 37 per cent. caused by sickness, 1,481, or 53 reasons for which excuses were rendered, and ten were truancies. The excused absences were largely due to stormy weather, as were also a considerable portion of the absences for sickness.

Compared with this month two years ago, the High School has increased 27 per cent., the Normal school department 20 per cent.; the centre Primary had lost 21 per cent.; Berkely 6 per cent., and Brookside 4 per cent. The enrollment in the entire school is now ten less, or about one percent decrease; while absences have been reduced 18 per cent. The withdrawal of children from the School, because of the crowded condition of the rooms, seems to be felt now only at the Centre Primary. The classes there are all smaller than two years ago.

Examinations were had throughout the School during the last week of the month, and the results reported were good. In language, geography, history and natural science, the examinations were partly or mainly oral. This plan was adopted because, if well conducted, it indicates quite as satisfactorily the pupils' real knowledge, relieves from constant writing and economizes material.

In consultation with the teachers it has seemed desirable that the time now devoted to phonetics in the Primary should be abridged, and whatever is thus saved be devoted to furthering the study of arithmetic. In this way it is thought that an essential advance may be secured in that study. So many boys leave school from the Primary to the summer classes without acquiring adequate knowledge of the business principles of arithmetic, that some such modification

of the present system seems eminently worthy of trial.

The usual monthly teachers' meeting was held, all teachers attending. The amount raised in school toward the library was \$48.90. This, with \$20 received from the State, makes \$73.26, to be devoted to the purchase of new books.

The B. F. A. and the V. I. A.

To The Citizen:

Complaint is made, especially by members of the Fire Association, that Dr. Davis at the recent public meeting of the Improvement Association, claims that members of the Association are not members of the Association when he said,

The commencement and carrying through to completion of the Fire Department was chiefly under the leadership of members of your society." The Doctor was aware of the fact that several of the original Board of Trustees of the B. F. A. were first members of the V. I. A. and it was their support that were largely influential in its organization. But I suppose the meaning the Doctor really intends to convey, was as he had previously stated in private conversation, that the organization of the V. I. A. and its work had crystallized public sentiment in favor of needed improvements in such a manner as to make it possible for such enterprises to be carried through successfully. This thought could not have been done without the preparatory work of the Association.

There seems to be a misapprehension in the minds of some with regard to the persons who are entitled to membership.

The Constitution reads, "Citizens of either sex, over eighteen years of age shall be eligible for membership."

Another misapprehension in the minds of some is that the V. I. A. is not as they think comprised of a few non-property owners who get together and vote improvements that will levy taxes for property owners to pay. In reply to this it is only necessary to say that some of the leading property owners of the town are among its members, and that the Association is not unfriendly to make improvements except as individuals can do nothing toward making assessments nor levying taxes. They can only give the public an opportunity of expressing their wishes in a manner to be felt and to be of practical benefit, and those fearing that they will be taxed, or that the Association will take undue advantage of their weakness, are cordially invited to attend the public meeting to be held on the first Friday evening in February.

G. T. M.

New Year's Calling.

To the Bloomfield Citizen:

In noticing your article under date of the 5th ult., referring to the many batches hung on New Year's Day, I am constrained to relate the experience of a couple of gentlemen who made a number of calls on that day, and who took occasion to get the views of a good many ladies on the subject. In every instance the two gentlemen were very cordially received, and though in most cases the ladies were not receiving calls, and did not expect any, the reception was none the less cordial and gratifying. It is a good many years since the writer made New Year's calls, and a good many since he had the pleasure of meeting so many ladies in our city, and found them well-spoken, and proved very profitable as well as gratifying. There were many regrets by a number of ladies that they had not prepared to receive their friends. As to the general verdict, it was unanimous in favor of receiving on New Years, and we have no doubt but that the next year will be even more cordial. This idea may be criticized, and no doubt it will be, but to use the language of one lady, the really offensive part of it is in overdoing the matter, and this cause may very properly be assigned as the chief reason why the good old custom is dying out. If our ladies would open their houses and receive their friends in a cordial manner, and without going to extremes, I have no doubt that the day would be very pleasant and profitable to both sexes. It is not necessary that anything costly or elaborate should be indulged in, as there is really not so much pleasure as there would be in meeting one's friends in a generous, cordial way, without making great preparations. This idea may be criticized, and no doubt it will be, but to use the language of one lady, the really offensive part of it is in overdoing the matter, and this cause may very properly be assigned as the chief reason why the good old custom is dying out. If our ladies would open their houses and receive their friends in a cordial manner, and without going to extremes, I have no doubt that the day would be very pleasant and profitable to both sexes. It is not necessary that anything costly or elaborate should be indulged in, as there is really not so much pleasure as there would be in meeting one's friends in a generous, cordial way, without making great preparations.

It is a shame," said the O. G. "to bring up that old subject again." Just at this point our rushed Charley Young, saying,

"Gus, they're better; do you hear them singing?"

"You don't mean to say," said all the O. G. at once, "not the men you've told me?"

"The same," said Gus, "and just as said this is a crutch come flying out of the bath-room, soon followed by three more, and then Emerson and Clark themselves in their bathing dresses, who proceeded to dance a double step, to the accompaniment of the O. G., who would scarcely believe their eyes.

"How—how—how many baths have these men had?" said one of the O. G. in a trembling voice.

"This is their first," said Williams.

"We will stay here for the summer," said the leader of the O. G., "and we want a bath now."

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